

# Notice of Allowability

## Application No.

09/689,248

## Examiner

Michael B. Holmes

## Applicant(s)

SHUM ET AL.

## Art Unit

2121

### -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to October 21, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |



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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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**Examiner's Detailed Office Action**

1. Claims 1-19 are allowed.

**REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

2. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

3. The closest prior art *Puckett* (USPN 5,619,621), *Sebastian et al.* (USPN 5,822,206) & *Toong et al.* (USPN 6,604,114 B1) do not teach or render obvious applicant's claimed invention.

In particular, as pointed out below, the prior art lacks certain features and the combination as specified in the respective claims.

4. With regards to claim 1 *Puckett*, *Sebastian et al.* & *Toong et al.* do not disclose  
“ ... selecting a first block from a block design of a system, where the block design comprises a plurality of blocks, each block representing a component or subsystem of the block design;  
submitting a search query to a database of objects for researching which component or subsystem to use for the first block; receiving an answer set from the database of objects that satisfies the search query, where the answer set comprises at least one object from the database of objects; assigning at least one candidate object from the answer set to the first block in the

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*block design; and repeating the steps of selecting, submitting, receiving, and assigning for at*

*least on<sup>e</sup> other block in the block design.”*

6. With regards to claim 9 *Puckett, Sebastian et al. & Toong et al* do not disclose

*“ ... selecting a first generic description from a system design, where the system design comprises a plurality of generic descriptions, each generic description representing a component or subsystem of the system design; submitting a search query to a database of objects for researching which component or subsystem to use for the first generic description; receiving an answer set from the database of objects that satisfies the search query where the answer set comprises at least one object from the database of objects; assigning at least one candidate object from the answer set to the first generic description In the system design; and repeating the steps of selecting, submitting, receiving, and assigning for at least on<sup>e</sup> other generic description in the system design.”*

7. With regards to claim 17 *Puckett, Sebastian et al. & Toong et al* do not disclose

*“ ... a database of objects, wherein the objects are related to components or subsystem; a search engine which accepts a search query and executes the search query against the database of objects to determine which components or subsystems can be use for a generic description portion of a system design, which returns an answer set of at least one candidate object; and an assignment processor for assigning at least one candidate object from the answer set to the generic description in the system design.”*

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## Correspondence Information

8. Any inquires concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael B. Holmes, who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at (571) 272-3686 or facsimile transmission (571) 273-3686 or email [Michael.holmesb@uspto.gov](mailto:Michael.holmesb@uspto.gov).

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the **Examiner's Supervisor**, Anthony Knight, may be reached at (571) 272-3687.

Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist @ (Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314), located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building.



**Anthony Knight**  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group 3600

***Michael B. Holmes***

Patent Examiner  
Artificial Intelligence  
Art Unit 2121

United States Department of Commerce  
Patent & Trademark Office

*Wednesday, February 02, 2005*

*MBH*